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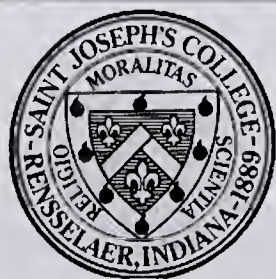
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Habitat For Humanity Migrates South for Spring Break



The Habitat crew hard at work (above) and posing as a team (below).
Photo courtesy of Andrea VanMeter

By Andrea VanMeter
Guest Writer

Every year, over 10,000 high school and college students help to improve communities with Habitat for Humanity through their alternative spring break program, Collegiate Challenge. This year, a group of 19 members of the SJC community traveled to Birmingham, Alabama as part of the Collegiate Challenge program. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Birmingham is ranked 5th out of over 1,500 affiliates in the US. They receive over 3,200 requests for housing each year and complete nearly 50 houses a year.

Working side by side with members of both Robert Morris University's and Penn State University's Habitat for Humanity, the group worked at select locations around Birmingham to help in their efforts to provide housing for those in need. SJC's team worked vigorously to set the I-beams and lay floor boards of two houses and part of a third for the affiliate's Building on Faith program. The Building on Faith program allows the affiliate to start and complete six houses starting during Lent and finishing Easter weekend.

Aside from that, some

other work throughout the week included some painting, building saw horses, completing a porch and warehouse work.

Throughout the week, the group had the opportunity to enjoy some of Alabama's bests. Non-work events included a night of bowling, visiting the oldest baseball park in America, Rickwood Field, dining at Bob Sykes Bar-B-Q, and taking a ghost tour at the Sloss Furnaces. Prior to making the final journey home, the group stopped for an afternoon of fun in Nashville, TN to enjoy a little R&R. Aside from listening to the live music and shopping, many of them put their dancing boots on for some line dancing at the Wild Horse Saloon. In addition, seven brave souls took on the mechanical bull at the Cadillac Ranch; unfortunately for them, the bull won.

Overall, it was a great week away. This year's participants included Allie Reiners, Allyson Bierovic, Andrea VanMeter, Angela Burgeson, Ben Kalinowski, Brittany Rooney, Chelsea Gierymski, Fred Berger, Jake Hellinga, John Manning, Julianne Donahue, Kara Ferrell, Keilia Kettman, Matt Schumacher, Meagan Maes, Meigan Rennels, Melia Paulino, Monica Lohmuller, and Samantha Tapia.

Efforts in Japan Continue



Japanese nuclear meltdown victims being inspected.
Photo courtesy of: <http://static.tech-norati.com>

By F. H. Gonzalez
Staff Writer

In the aftermath of the biggest earthquake in Japan's modern history, efforts are being made to send aid to the recovering citizens. To this day, millions of dollars are being raised by not-for-profit organizations. Large corporations like Kraft Nabisco are holding fundraisers to raise money. Still, it is the efforts of local populations where heartfelt donations and relief efforts are being made. One of these efforts is being made here on campus. The campus Japan Relief effort is accepting donations from students wishing to send clothing to victims of the Japan earthquake and subsequent Tsunami. Heading this undertaking is Men's soccer coach, David Stroud.

David Stroud, who hails from the Osaka region of Japan, has a personal connection with the recent tragedy in Japan. Both

of his closest friends were caught in the earthquake in Sendai, Japan. One of his friends, from New Zealand, was also caught in the Tsunami, David Stroud points out. "He and his family had to be evacuated. He's from New Zealand and his family left Japan, but he decided to stay and be part of relief. He's a pro-rugby player and he played in Christchurch, recently damaged by quake. So he wanted to help." Fortunately, David Stroud's friends, and family made it through the earthquake safely.

The only concern that remained was taking care of the victims affected by the tragedy. David Stroud points out that the climate in Japan is very similar to our Midwestern climate and this poses a problem for shelters with damaged infrastructure utilities. "There is hardly a heater and lacking fuel to keep the shelter warm," says Stroud, "so rather than donating money, why not warm clothing." To this day, the Japan relief effort has acquired a lot of clothing to aid those in the shelters. David is helping to gather all of the donations and is preparing to send them to Japan. He is working hard to get the donations to Japan as soon as possible. This effort is a great reflection of our campus community, and the willingness of faculty, staff, and students to send aid to a people in need.

Puma Forum: Students Get a Voice

By Joe Karpiak
Guest Writer

On March 22nd, the Student Association held their annual town hall meeting for the student to express any concerns or compliments that they may have about Saint Joseph's College. This year was a little different than previous years. Usually only the President of The College and the Dean of Students are present to answer any questions that arise, but this year the new Student Association Executive board wanted to try something different.

This year the executive board asked many different departments to send representatives to the Puma Forum. This year there were representatives from Housing and Residence life, Career Services, the Business office, Student Financial Services, Security, Food Services, and also Institutional Marketing and Advancement. This allowed the students to have more departments to ask questions to.

The biggest discussion was of the alcohol policy on campus. There have been some rumors that the dorms are going to become wet, meaning that residents over 21 years old will

be able to have alcohol in their room. Well, this is not going to happen any time soon. The Dean of Students answered the student's questions, and said that she is working on it but the policy is not going to change overnight.

Students also expressed concerns about the washers and dryers in the dorms. The President responded that next year all the dorms are going to get new high efficiency washer and dryers. Another thing is that you will not need quarters to use them; it will be entirely free, well for the most part. A laundry fee has been added to tuition and that allows you to use them for "free" throughout the year. Other questions pertaining to Bennett and Merlini and their electrical capacity were asked. The response was that Bennett will be getting an upgrade for their electrical power over the summer.

The Puma Forum answered many questions the students had about basically anything. If you missed this past one, don't worry next semester the Student Association Executive board is planning on having another Forum for the students. If your questions cannot wait till then feel free to contact any of the executive board members and we will try to get you the answers right away. Feel free to contact Lauren Vance, Meigan Rennels, Matt Williams, or Katie Coryell with any concerns you may have.

Herps Gone Wild

By Jessica Ruschke
Staff Writer

The herpetology class with their first catch of the day.
Photo courtesy of Dr. Robert Brodman.



Spring Break. Fun in the sun, vacations, and salamanders. The Herpetology class took a spring break trip to observe salamanders and other amphibians March 5 - 9. Professor of Biology, Dr. Robert Brodman headed the trip.

The reason he chose the Great Smokey Mountains as the location for the trip is the incredible number of salamanders that live there, and many of them are different species from the ones seen around Rensselaer. For Sophomore Wildlife Biology major Alan Austin, the mountains stood out in his memory of the trip. "The view was spectacular. We saw lots of other animals like deer and coyotes too," said Austin.

The students classified the salamanders they saw and recorded the number they found in the area. The trip was not a requirement for the course, but gave students the opportunity to supplement what they learned

in class. Some past herpetology students also came on this year's trip.

Each year they find species they did not see in previous years. This year the group found spring salamanders. "Walking and searching streams is easily the best thing to do. Everything is alive and you never know what you will see," said Austin.

The trip gave students and professors the opportunity to interact with one another outside of the classroom. "A lot of the trip is camaraderie between students and faculty," said Dr. Brodman. Dr. Brodman attributed a lot of the enjoyment in the trip to the group of students. He said, "There weren't any whiners. They were ready to go and they're fun people to hang out with too. It's good to have a group like that. The weather wasn't perfect, little snow, little rain, little sun. No matter what everyone was upbeat."

Students enjoyed the trip too. "I loved it. I like salamanders and had never been to the Smokeys. It was amazing. I love being away from civilization," said Austin.

Dr. Brodman also likes to take the students to some places in southern Indiana to look for amphibians. It also helps break up some of the driving. "It makes the trip more fun," said Dr. Brodman. This is the third year the class has taken this trip. It evolved slowly.

Some years ago Dr. Brodman tried to put together a camping trip to southern Indiana, but the weather never cooperated until April and it was always hard to schedule. Eventually, he decided to go further south during spring break.

Next year, Dr. Brodman will teach an Invertebrate Zoology class that also takes an annual trip. That class travels to Alabama to observe marine life along the coast. "It is the fastest way to get to salt water," said Dr. Brodman.

Jay Black Brings the Laughs

By Brandon Bennett
Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 31, comedian Jay Black returned to Saint Joseph's College. His last visit was during freshmen orientation in 2009. The Student Union Board hosted his performance in the ballroom. Jay Black was voted 2008 College Comedian of the Year. He has performed on numerous television shows. He has also just recently returned from touring with troops overseas.

Jay started his show by remaining on the floor rather than going up on the stage, giving a friendlier feel to the show. He began talking about dating, marriage, and sex, and told stories about his own experiences. His enthusiasm and high-spirited attitude got the audience laughing from the beginning of the show. He covered a variety of topics, from politics to Snuggies. Many of his jokes included stories about his own life, as he liked to laugh

at himself. Others were about the antics of his three-year-old son. Jay also liked to do impressions, including acting like his hand was a dinosaur.

One of the best stories he told was when he was kicked out of the nursery after his son was born. Jay asked why his son would occasionally suck on the back of his hand. The nurse answered that when his son couldn't get access to Jay's wife he would turn to his hand. "I know what that's like," Jay said jokingly, and was promptly removed from the nursery.

At the end of the show, as Jay was about to leave, the students called him back for an encore, which he had asked for at the beginning of the show. He then answered any questions the audience had, and even told a few more stories.

Freshman art major Shayna Polomchak said, "He was wonderfully funny and cuter

than he gave himself credit for. The impressions he did and the 'dinosaur' were my favorite." Undeclared freshman Gayle Arend agreed, saying, "He was hilarious with real comic credibility, while still in good taste. It was slapstick and fun, with a hint of minty freshness." Justine Challis, a sophomore English literature major, greatly enjoyed the show as well, and said, "He made my sides ache with laughter."

Overall, Jay Black was a great success once again at the College, and he will hopefully return in the future to continue his hilarious antics.



Upcoming Events

April 8-
Men's & Women's Tennis vs Bellarmine
Urinetown-The Musical

April 9-
SJC Baseball vs Lewis

April 10-
SJC Baseball vs Lewis

April 12-
Colloquium
7:00 PM - 7:00 AM - Shack City (Whisper Wall Area Pond Outside Halleck)

April 13-
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM - Ms Puma (Theatre)

April 14-
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM - Mr Puma (Theatre)

April 15-
10:30 AM - 4:00 PM - Little 500 (IM Field/Little 500 Track)

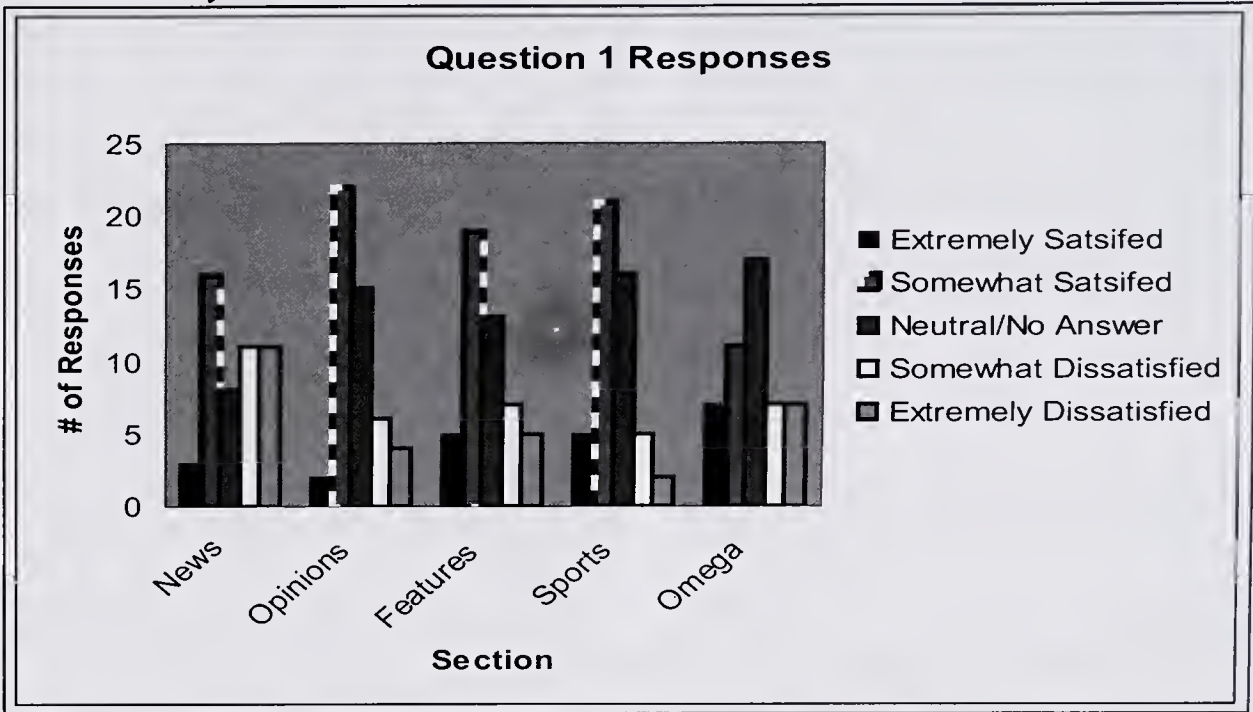
April 19-
SJC Baseball vs University of Indianapolis

Seniors,
31 days left until GRADUATION!! Do everything on your list that you want to do. A visit to Benny's, hanging out in the IM field, and movie night with your friends. Our time here is ending fast, so make your last few weeks here something memorable..

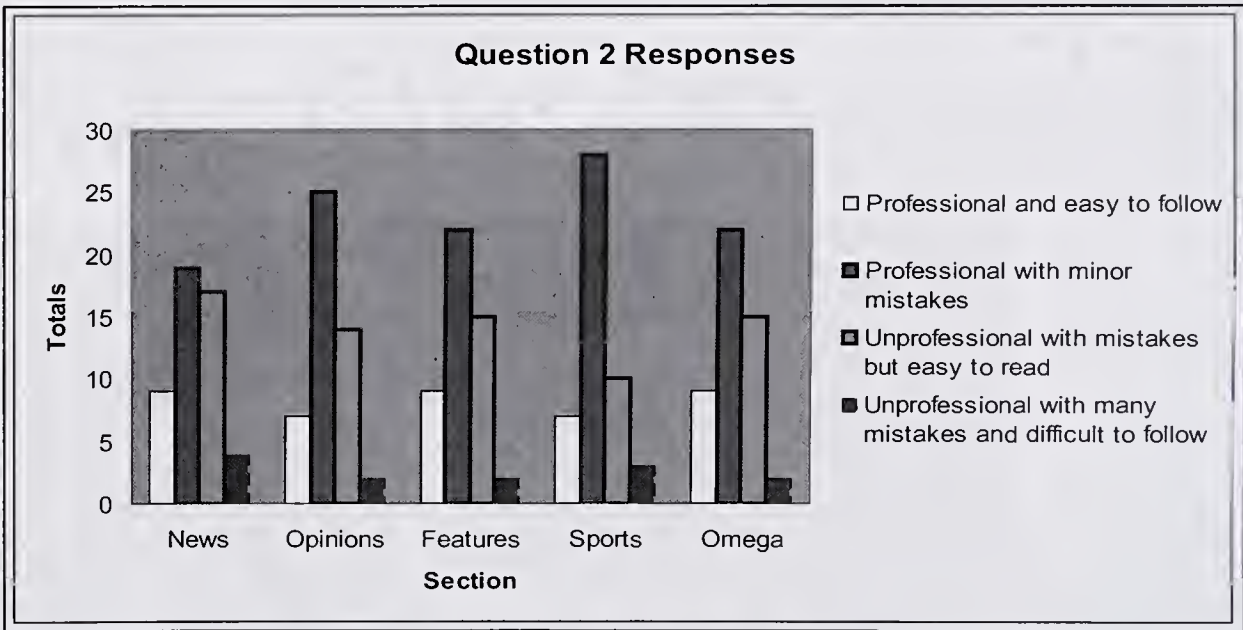
THE RESULTS ARE IN....

As many of our readers are aware, we at “The Observer” sent out a survey to assess the overall feelings on our paper. Many thanks to all who responded! Truth be told, some of the responses were harsh when written out, but looking strictly at the numbers on the graphs, most readers are somewhat satisfied with our school’s paper. Below are the results of our survey, question by question with charts! Bear in mind that only 49 people responded to our survey; this is not even a tenth of our campus.

Question 1: How pleased are you with “The Observer” during the 2010-2011 academic year overall?



Question 2: Please rate the quality (layout/editing) of the articles overall.



SA Status on “Non-Discrimination” Policy

To The Observer Editors, Pumas and Faculty:

I am writing this article to ensure that the facts about the addition of “sexual orientation” to the student handbook and faculty guide are accurately presented to students.

In the last edition of *The Observer*, Editor-in-Chief Ashlee Doty commented on the process of the change in sexual orientation and said that that “while this would be an interesting story, this is not a concrete idea as of yet” and “the plan to add sexual orientation is going on its 2nd year of motions. This has not yet passed.” Ms. Doty was misinformed and this letter intends to correct Ms. Doty and make sure that the facts about this important change were available to students.

As a member of the Student Association (SA) executive board, I was present at a SA meeting in February where President Riegelneegg and Father Kirch presented the finalised draft

of the dignity policy pertaining to the addition of sexual orientation.

SA spoke with President Riegelneegg and Father Kirch about the process that went into drafting this policy as well as what changes the policy actually made. After a thorough discussion, SA voted to endorse the dignity policy as it was written and to support the addition of the dignity policy into the Puma Guide and faculty handbook.

For those students who are unaware, the addition of “sexual orientation” to the non-discrimination policy has been an on-going project with the student association, the C.P.P.S and the President’s office as well as several other institutions involved in the day-to-day business of Saint Joseph’s College. However, because Saint Joseph’s is a Catholic institution there was an overwhelming decision not to add “sexual orientation” to the non-discrimination policy. If this

change was made, the college would be supporting something in direct violation of Catholic views.

Instead of a change in the non-discrimination policy, a “dignity statement” was drafted which incorporates the role of Saint Joseph’s students as Christian Humanists in making sure that the dignity of no student is infringed upon.

This dignity statement is worded in such a way to ensure that students of varying sexual orientation are just as much a part of the college as any other student. The dignity policy makes clear, that as a Catholic institution it is our duty to love and respect all humans.

The dignity policy states that, “the College is committed to embracing all people with equal love and compassion.”

This change, while it seems small, is a great step forward for students of various sexual orientations on Saint Joseph’s

campus, and ensures students of a safe and understanding home on campus. This dignity policy has been approved by the faculty at Saint Joseph’s as well as by the Student Association which finalises the process. The statement on inherent dignity will be added to the faculty handbooks as well as the Puma Guide for next school year (Fall 2011).

If students have any further questions about the statement on inherent dignity, please feel free to contact the SA executive board: Lauren Vance, Joseph Karpik, Matt Williams, Katie Coryell or myself. It is important to the SA exec board that all students are aware of the changes that are being made to make Saint Joseph’s an understanding community for all pumas.

Meigan Rennels
Executive Treasurer
Student Association

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We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

Splintered Strokes Disappoint with Angles

By Michael Garrity
Co-Editor-in-Chief

After having released one of the greatest debut albums of all time, 2001's *Is This It?*, New York City's The Strokes have made a career of ups and downs. Now, ten years later, they have released their fourth album, *Angles*, after a nearly five year hiatus.

Reports of the album's recording process sound like a splintered quintet, at best, with singer Julian Casablancas almost never present in the studio with the band, and often recording his vocal tracks in a completely separate place and then returning them to his bandmates. After ten years together, and five of those spent apart working on differnt projects, this is clearly a much different band than the group of young upstarts who recorded their masterful first album a decade ago.

However, upon first listen, it appears that *Angles* is sort of a return to form for the band. While their second and

third albums strayed from the garage punk sound that they had perfected with *Is This It?*, this fourth disc seems to return to that sound, at first. The two solid opening tracks, "Machu Picchu" and "Under the Cover of Darkness," rely on the same sort of simplistic instrumental arrangements and easy melodies that made the band great to begin with. However, from there the songs become a hodgepodge of different sounds; it becomes something of an amalgamation of all three of their previous albums. Some songs sound like they were written for their second album, *Room on Fire*, such as the last track, "Life is Simple in the Moonlight." Others, such as the unappealing "Metabolism," would fit right in on their third disc. And still some songs, most notably the very 80s "Two Kinds of Happiness" (which sounds like Bruce Springsteen singing over a Duran Duran track) or the almost Vampire Weekend-esque "Games" are completely unlike anything the band have done before. Not that branching out is

a bad thing, but it doesn't come together on *Angles* the way I'm thinking the band wanted it to.

Unfortunately, this jumble of different ideas is ultimately what kills *Angles*. The fractured way in which this album came to life shines through in the disjointed experience of listening to it. While this sort of divided quality among songs has plagued the band since they released their very cohesive debut album, it has never been as much of a hindrance as it is here. I think the biggest problem with that is the lack of any really quality individual tracks on *Angles*. While *Room on Fire* and *First Impressions of Earth* may not have been phenomenal albums, they did have some outstanding songs, which *Angles* lacks. Even their best effort here doesn't match up to most of their previous work, and it doesn't help when they have songs as lacking as "Metabolism" and "You're So Right" sticking out as being just utterly abysmal. This disc has its moments, but they're few and far between.



For the record, this album cover is MUCH cooler in color. (Photo courtesy of: <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-a9myMUBdI80/TY9Ey2oNALI/AAAAAAAAAChQ/lfSpTfmvkHs/s1600/Strokes%2BAngles.jpg>)

Tracklisting	
1. Machu Picchu	
2. Under the Cover of Darkness	Personnel
3. Two Kinds of Happiness	Julian Casablancas, Fabrizio Moretti
4. You're So Right	Albert Hammond Jr, Nick Valensi, Nikolai Fraiture
5. Taken for a Fool	
6. Games	Release Date
7. Call Me Back	March 18, 2011
8. Gratification	
9. Metabolism	Record Label
10. Life is Simple in the Moonlight	RCA

GO DOWNLOAD THESE SONGS...NOW!

Machu Picchu
Taken for a Fool

Call Me Back
Gratification

OVERALL GRADE

C-

Tangled Up on Blu-Ray

By Corey Dowds
Staff Writer

In an era where we take Disney movies, and expose them for the seemingly "degrading" fashion in which they are made, it becomes a little depressing to go back and watch some of your favorite old movies. If you go return now to some of these old, classic Disney movies like *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Aladdin*, some people would

argue that women are portrayed as powerless. While this may be true to some extent, I don't think there is any intentional harm in these movies, although I can see how it may seem detrimental to show these to kids now, with those "subliminal" messages in mind. Well, while the movie *Tangled* may fit into some of these gender role stereotypes, I believe it to be an overall empowering movie for a young woman, and even though



Tangled's heroine, Rapunzel, (played by pop star Mandy Moore) wields her trusty frying pan in Disney's 50th animated feature film (Photo courtesy of: http://collider.com/wp-content/uploads/tangled_movie_image_rapunzel_01-600x316.jpg)



Tangled was just released on DVD and Blu-Ray last week, on Tuesday, March 29. (Photo courtesy of: <http://www.valmg.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/TangledBlurayCover.jpg>)

it comes across as just another "prncess" movie, it is just as entertaining and meaningful for boys, as well.

The film starts with the introduction to the story and we learn how the main character, Rapunzel, is abducted by an evil, old witch. The witch uses the child's magic power, which comes from her hair, to keep her youthful appearance. Rapunzel is kept up in a high tower, far away from the rest of the world, which is all similar to the classic story that we all know. We quickly come to know and love Rapunzel; she is lovely and smart character, who is a bit naive due to her being locked up in the tall tower and never allowed to experience the world. Her adventure begins when she is freed from the tower by our young hero, Flynn Rider. Flynn breaks the mold of the formulaic male hero that we have

come to know in every Disney movie. At the beginning of the story, he is a thief and a thug. When we first meet him, he is more concerned with getting money and his own island than anything else, but by the end of the film, much like Rapunzel, he has evolved. As he becomes less greedy, and she learns more about the world, they grow closer together in their revelations and in their relationship.

I went to my group of closest homies to see what they thought about the movie. "It was soooooooo good," commented Kristina Hemmerling. Another of my friends commented (in a slightly creepy way), "I thought Rapunzel was totally hot, or as hot as a cartoon can be. I guess the movie was pretty good too."

"I thought the movie was done rather well. There was good character development,

good animation, and, overall, a good story," commented Alex "Youngblood" Yong. "It was like *Halo* and *Star Trek* put together, in terms of overall epicness, and easily my favorite movie of all time."

"[*Tangled* is] one of the best animated films to come out in years," said Logan Devos.

Myself? I thought the movie was pretty awesome. This Disney movie is great even without the help of Pixar, and this following a time when people assume that Pixar can do no wrong. Some even thought *Cars* was good. Overall, I would probably rate *Tangled* at about an 8.5. The story breaks the mold to avoid being a gneric Disney movie. *Tangled* is a funny, charming, and smart movie that audience members of all ages can enjoy.

LIVING LIMITLESS

By Natalie Katona
Staff Writer

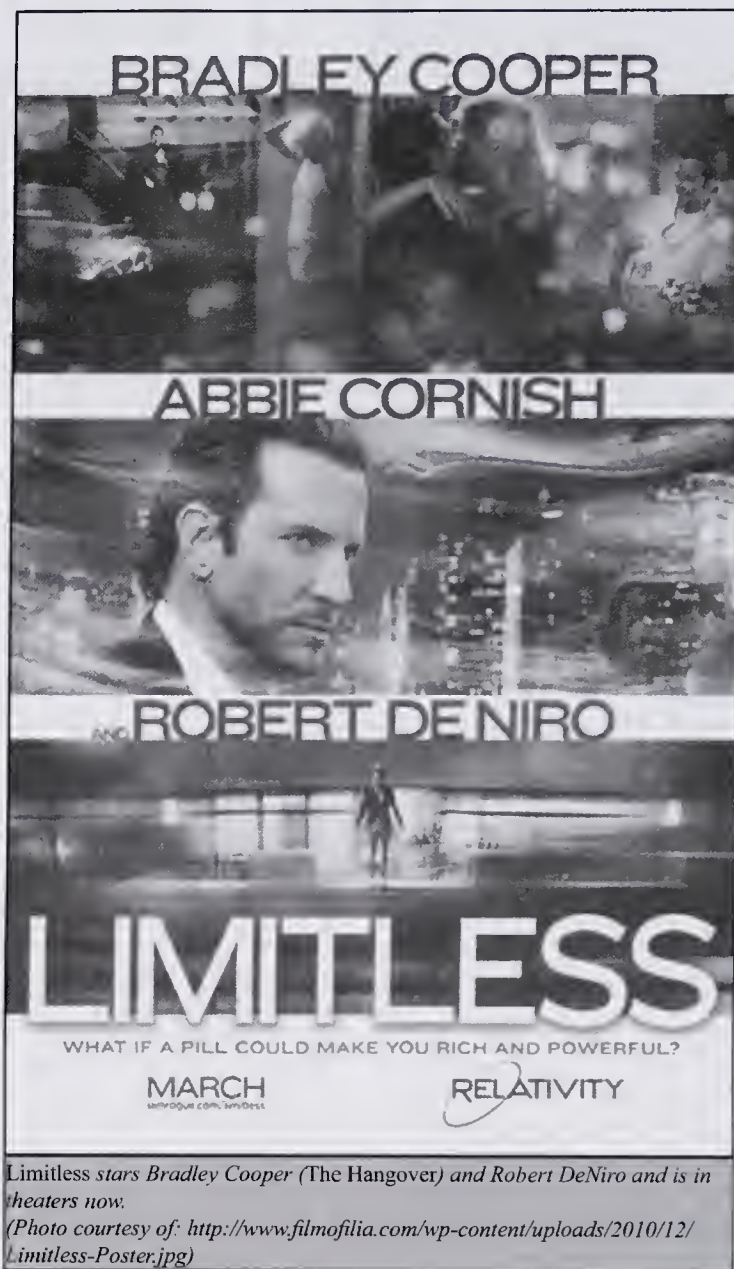
Over my spring break, I was determined to see an action-packed, intense movie. After briefly considering *The Adjustment Bureau*, I was convinced that Bradley Cooper's latest film, *Limitless*, was going to be perfect for me. (And, if it was not, looking at Bradley Cooper for two hours would have made it worth it.) However, while Bradley is gorgeous, I ended up being very disappointed in my choice of movie. In the words of my sister, as we were leaving the theatre together, "It was a movie that took less than two hours but I felt like I was in there for four."

I was hoping that *Limitless* was at least going to be thrilling. In fact, there was hardly any action in the movie at all. The plot starts out with Bradley Cooper's character, Eddie Morra, feeling sorry for himself. He is a poor, unemployed writer who looks like he is on the verge of being homeless. Luckily, he has found some sap of a girl who is willing to foot the bill for him. That is until she dumps him because his life is obviously going nowhere. While the main character is processing that situation, we also learn that he could be employed if only he could finish the book he wants to write. We are then introduced to a shady character, who is apparently Eddie's ex-brother-in-law. The brother-in-law gives Eddie a free sample of this super pill that is supposed to allow him access every part of the human brain and allow a person to be able to delve into every memory they

have ever had. Eddie takes the pill and is able to finally finish his book within a night, and help his landlord's wife with a law paper.

This is where I thought the movie would begin to take on a *Brave New World* sort of vibe. However, nothing terrible, or terribly interesting, really happens during the rest of the movie. We have a couple of fast-paced shots where, for about ten minutes, Bradley Cooper is wandering around trying to find his apartment but cannot because his brain is making time move too fast. That is pretty much the extent of the conflict that the movie has. Eddie winds up with a high-paying job bidding on stocks. When he starts to have bizarre side effects from the pill, he tries to stop taking them, but then soon realizes that not taking the pills will actually somehow result in his death. Also, it turns out that he is incapable of doing his new job without the pills. I had been hoping that the plot would have been more action-packed, but even with the involvement of the Russian mob, nothing exciting actually happens. In the entire film there is only one scene in which there is a little bit of excitement. The story also attempted a plot twist at the end, but it was pretty predictable and nothing really exciting.

When I went to see this movie I was hoping for more of a plot with a more concise, socially-minded message about how we should beware of what new medicine or technology could do to our lives if we are not more careful. Instead, this movie actually makes it seem like it is perfectly acceptable for one to



Limitless stars Bradley Cooper (The Hangover) and Robert DeNiro and is in theaters now.
(Photo courtesy of: <http://www.filmofilia.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Limitless-Poster.jpg>)

just get intelligence from a pill, instead of actually working for it; there does not seem to be much of a point to it at all. However, I think I was mostly disappointed with the ending. Without going into any spoilers, I will just say that it simply ends. The drama,

what little action there was, and the plot just simply end with no solutions to any real problem. However, even though the movie ended quite abruptly, it in no way left me wanting more.

A Correction on Roman Numerals

By Michael Garrity
Co-Editor-in-Chief

I am writing this because I need to make a correction in regards to a mistake I made, a few times, in the last issue of *The Observer*. In the article I wrote in anticipation of WWE's latest WrestleMania event, which took place this past Sunday, I incorrectly labeled it as "WrestleMania XVII," even though it is actually the twenty-seventh, not the seventeenth. I didn't catch this flub until over a week after the issue came out. I made the mistake three times in my article, I think, and for some reason I just did not notice what I was doing when I proofread everything. In my infinite ignorance, I must have thought I was typing the right number when I clearly was not. So, I want to apologize for my ineptitude, especially to the wrestling fans who may have been offended by my blunder (although WrestleMania 17 was incredible).

Now, when I sat down to write this correction, I asked myself why, in the year 2011, I was even making mistakes in writing Roman numerals that have to be corrected. So I did some investigating on the topic and thought I would share my findings with you, our wonderful readers.

The switch from Roman numerals to the Arabic numerals that we're all so used to apparently happened sometime in the thirteenth century (although, apparently, accountants continued to use Roman numerals throughout the Middle Ages, because they were easier to add and subtract). One reason was because the Roman system doesn't have a symbol to indicate zero, which was actually "invented" by Hindus. In fact, the whole "Arabic" set of numbers that we're so used to using was actually invented by the Hindu people, not Muslims; Islamic countries eventually adopted the Hindu system. As you may have guessed, we eventually borrowed it from the Islamic World and then named the system after them, not the Hindus who actually created it.

But why do we use Roman numerals today? Unfortunately, the answer is far less exciting than I was expecting it to be. It's simply a way to make an event look more important or grandiose. This is why we see them used most commonly with sporting spectacles like WrestleMania or the Super Bowl, because these are supposed to be a big deal, and apparently Roman numerals help market them as such. We use them in other ways today as well. Music majors know that they are used to indicate the triads in a scale, with uppercase numerals representing majors and lowercase numerals indicating minor chords. Most of you have probably dropped Roman numerals like they were hot in your academic outlines as well. They also show up in naming World Wars, Final Fantasy video game titles, and plenty of other places on occasion.

By now, with any luck, you will have totally forgotten that I was writing this to correct a mistake I made.

Gotta Get Down

By Michael Garrity
Co-Editor-in-Chief

In just the two weeks since the release of the last issue of *The Observer*, the world has been radically shifted with the

release of "Friday," the first single by internet sensation Rebecca Black.

For her birthday, Black's parents decided to give her the perfect gift, the chance to become a star. After shelling out just

\$2000 to the Ark Music Factory, the young teenager was able to sing on a track written by the company and film a music video using friends from her school. Ark Music Factory is a company that, for a relatively small fee, writes and produces music for young people looking to become the next Justin Bieber.

And that is just what they did, for Black. Well, sort of. Within a few weeks of putting her video up on YouTube, "Friday" had rapidly grown in popularity; unfortunately for the young girl, most of it was negative. The song was ridiculed for its excessive use of auto-tune, annoyingly repetitive chorus, random rap verse, and, perhaps most of all, its asinine lyrics.

The song itself is about a Middle School-aged girl who just cannot wait for Friday, Friday, Friday, that glorious day at the end of the week when she can finally break free of the demanding constraints of her weekday life and party, party, yeah!

The song begins with the narrator waking up, at seven in the morning no less, and having

to go to school. After getting her bowl, and her cereal, she goes out to wait for the bus. However, this song is about more than just hard partying like only a thirteen-year-old can, but also about choices. When the singer is waiting at the bus stop a group of her friend pull up in their car, which leads her to a dilemma. With some friends kicking in the front seat, and others sitting in the back seat, which seat should *she* take? I won't spoil it for you by giving it away.

In the last two weeks, Black and "Friday" have become one of the most popular memes in the country. Countless parody and reaction videos have been uploaded to YouTube, my personal favorite being the "Bob Dylan" version of her song. She even trended on Twitter for nearly a week straight. Certainly, it is fair to say that not a single Friday night party has gone down without this song being played at least once. If nothing else, the track itself is a hilarious, unintentional satire of modern, teen-oriented pop music, and for that I salute it.



Thirteen-year-old internet sensation Rebecca Black has taken the pop culture world by storm with the release of her hit single, "Friday."
(Photo courtesy of: <http://turbo.inquisitr.com/wp-content/2011/03/Rebecca-Black-Friday-Singer.jpg>)

SJC BASEBALL ON FIRE AT 12-0-1 AND 11-1 IN GLVC

By: Ken Badylak '05
Director of Sports
Information

Angelo Burrage (RSo., Chicago, Ill./Illinois State) and Aric Marquardt (Jr., New Lenox, Ill./Lincoln-Way Central) each drove in four runs in the Saint Joseph's College baseball team's 22-4 victory over Wisconsin-Parkside on Saturday. SJC continued its winning ways in the night-cap defeating UWP 7-5.

The Pumas (16-7, 9-1 GLVC) scored a pair of runs on Wade Finke's (Sr., Lemont, Ill./Lemont) single in the top of the first. SJC would score three times in the opening frame and added a pair in the second inning to take a quick 5-0 lead.

The UWP (6-11, 5-3 GLVC) pitching staff struggled throughout as SJC scored 15 times between the fifth and sixth innings. The scoring in the fifth was highlighted by a three-run homerun by Burrage and a two-run blast from Eric Mason (So., Tinley Park, Ill./Andrews).

Neil Hudson (Jr., West Lafayette, Ind./Southern Illinois) coasted through five innings to pick-up the victory. Hudson allowed two runs on eight hits to pick-up his fourth win of the



Coach Rick O'Dette is making a game plan as his Pumas go up to the plate. (Photo courtesy of Father Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

season. Marquardt finished the game four for five with a double and four RBIs. Sean Estand (Sr., Evergreen Park, Ill./St. Rita) went three for five with two doubles and a RBI.

SJC pushed its unbeaten streak to 11 by securing a 7-5 victory in game two. Estand plated the first run of the game with a RBI single. Zack Getsee (Sr., Washington, Mo./Southwestern Illinois) completed

the three-run first frame with a RBI single down the leftfield line.

Joe Huber (Sr., Washington, Mo./Southwestern Illinois) hit a solo homerun in the top of the second while Joe Pudlo's (Jr., Grayslake, Ill./Carmel) homerun in the third extended the Pumas' lead to 5-0.

Eric Meyerchick (Jr., Lansing, Ill./T.F. South) plowed through five innings before

hitting a snag in the sixth. The Rangers scored four times in the frame, chasing Meyerchick from the game. Ed Schlueter (RSr., Machesney Park, Ill./Harlem) secured the victory with two innings of relief.

Zack Getsee finished the game three for four with two doubles and three RBIs. Meyerchick allowed four runs on six hits while striking-out six to record his fourth win of the year.

Tennis Teams Hit Hard Times with a Long Weekend Ahead

By: Jeremy Butterfield
Sports Editor

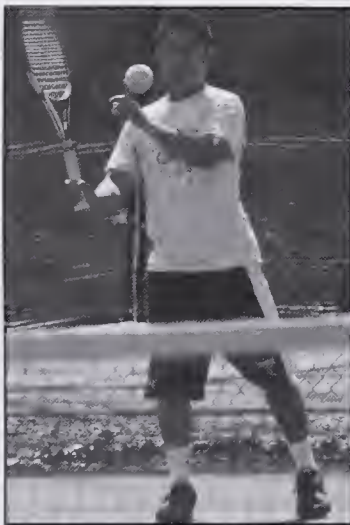
The Saint Joseph's College tennis teams have hit a rough patch in their last four games. The men's and women's have had a solid year until the past two weeks, going 1-3 for both teams. The men's are currently 14-6 this season with a 1-3 record in the GLVC. The women have a 13-3 record with a 1-3 record in conference.

Last weekend the teams went down to Southern Indiana on Friday and on Saturday they faced Indianapolis at home. The men had a tough time this weekend going 1-8 in both games. Tennis games are based on 9 matches that determine the overall winner. On Friday the Men faced number 34 in the

country, Southern Indian. From top to bottom the Pumas were not ready for this team. The Pumas only winner was sophomore Carl Fisher he was able to win his match with the score of 6-3 and 7-5. All the Pumas tried hard and did not make it easy for Southern Indiana to win.

The women on Friday were able to do a little better than the men's team with a 2-7 lost, the best performers were sophomore Katee Sanderson and freshman Cynthia Kegley.

Being in the 1,2 spot means they are the best on the Puma team. The women are a young team with 2 upperclassmen out of the teams 9 players. This team did good last year but this is a new year and a young team with a 13-3 record they should be happy with themselves.



Miguel Belcina throws up for a great serve. (Photo courtesy of Father Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

Both teams are going to be playing home games this weekend. The Men will play 4 games from April 8-10. The women will be playing 3 games over the same time. The Pumas will be rested for the games this weekend.

The men need to be ready for the 9th with 2 games that day. This weekend will be long but if the Pumas can get the job done against the conference games they might be able to pull back into conference contention.



Ishan Gohil hits a solid serve. (Photo courtesy of Father Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

Lady Puma Softball Battles Hard in the GLVC

By: Stephanie Wiethop
Sports Information Intern

The Saint Joseph's College softball team lost a pair of games to University of Missouri-St. Louis Saturday afternoon in Rensselaer, Indiana. SJC lost the opener 11-3 before falling in game two 8-7.

Rachel Weaver (Jr., Crown Point, Ind./Lake Central) started the scoring for the Pumas (12-11, GLVC 5-5) with a two-run homerun in the bottom of the first inning to give the SJC a 2-1 lead. However, the Tritons (11-10, GLVC 5-0) would battle right back and score two runs in the top of the third inning.

In the bottom of the forth Shawn Hoskins (Fr., Pendleton, Ind./Pendleton Heights) hit a solo homerun to tie the game. Unfortunately, that would be end of the scoring for the Pumas.

The Tritons added two runs in the top of the sixth and Leslie Davis added extra insurance in the top of the seventh by hitting a grand slam off Sarah Franklin (So., Greenwood, Ind./Center Grove).

In the first inning of game two, the UMSL scored four times including on a two-run homerun by JaCee Ellis. In the top of the third, the Tritons also added three more runs including a solo home run from JaCee Ellis and a two-run home run from Haleigh Jenkins. Another score in the top of the fourth pushed the lead to 8-1.

SJC would battle back to score five runs the bottom of the

Apr 9 Home Lewis
12:00 pm also
available on 93.3

Apr 9 Home Lewis
2:00 pm

Apr 10 Home
Lewis 12:00 pm
also available on 93.3

Apr 10 Home
Lewis 2:00 pm

Apr 14 Home
Kentucky State
1:00 pm also
available on 93.3

Apr 14 Home
Kentucky State
3:00 pm

sixth. However, this would prove to be it for the Pumas as they could not come up with another run to tie the game.

Kayla Robinson (Jr., Mooresville, Ind./ Mooresville) finished one for three with a two-run homerun and two RBIs. Rachel Weaver pitched four innings of relief allowing three hits and striking out two. She was one for four in the game with a double.

Apr 9 @Kentucky
Wesleyan 12:00
pm

Apr 9 @Kentucky
Wesleyan 2:00 pm

Apr 10 @Southern
Indiana 12:00
pm

Apr 10 @Southern
Indiana 2:00 pm

Apr 12 @ Indiana
Wesleyan 3:00
pm

Apr 12 @Indiana
Wesleyan 5:00 pm

Lady Puma Softball Team Improving Their Game

By Amber Melvin
Sports Editor

The girl's softball team has been improving since the last issue. On March 27, they had two games against Drury at Drury. They won one and lost the other, but then they won their next four games in a row. Those four consisted of two games against Illinois-Springfield with total scores of 5-0 and 5-2 and two games against Saint Mary of the Woods with total scores of 9-0 and 8-0.

Congratulations to the Lady Puma's for winning each four of those games in a row! Unfortunately after the Lady

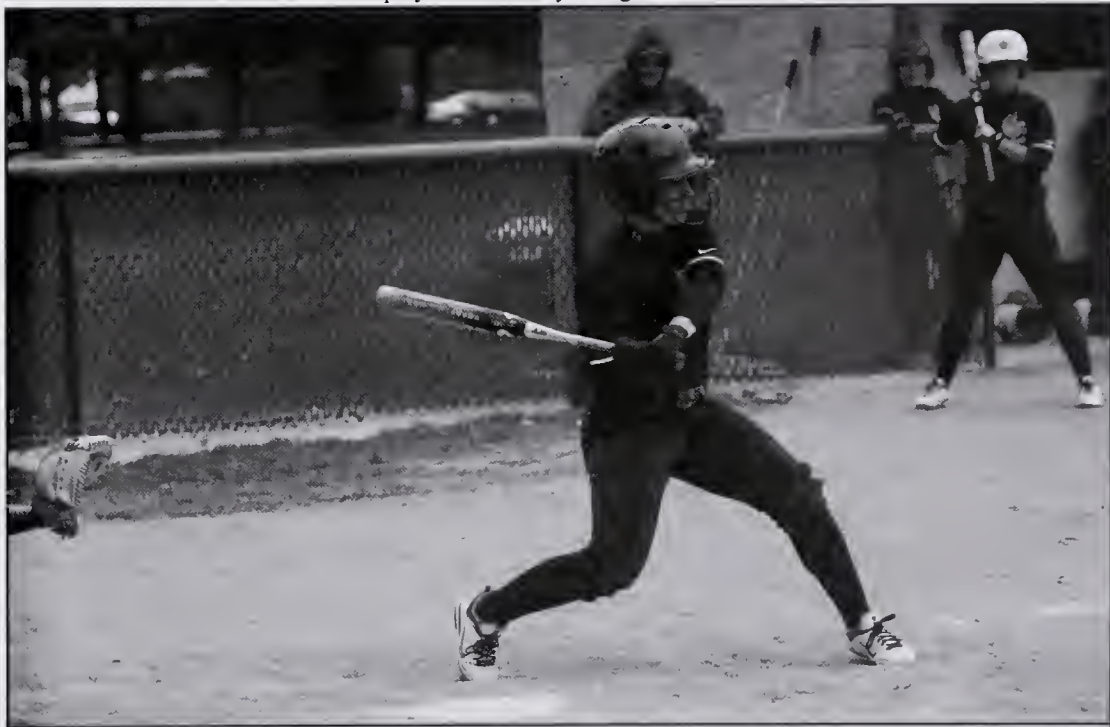
Puma's winning streak of four games in a row, they lost the next four games in a row.

They played two games against U.M.S.L., which is University of Missouri Saint Louis and two games against Maryville. The score for the two games that were played against U.M.S.L were 3-11 and 7-8 and the scores for for Maryville were 0-1 and 1-3.

The Puma's are currently 5-5 in the conference. Nicole Costello, Amy Varner, Brittnie Boerema, Kristin Paris, and Stephenie Hash all have the most games played and games started, with a total of twenty-one games played and twenty-one games

started for each one. So far in the season, Amy Varner has had the most runs, with a total of fourteen runs, while Nicole Costello follows closely behind with a total of twelve runs. However, Nicole Costello is in the lead for the most hits in the season, with a total of twenty-seven hits, while Amy Varner is following close behind with twenty-six hits total.

Brittnie Boerema has the most RBI's, which are runs batted in, which is a total for eighteen RBI's, while Amy Varner is not far behind with a total of thirteen RBI's. The Lady Puma Softball team seems to be doing better as the season goes on.



Junior Amy Varner ready to hit the ball for the Lady Puma Softball Team.
(Photo Courtesy of Father Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

Puma Athlete Profile:

By: Jeremy Butterfield
Sports Editor
Kaleb Thompson



Kaleb is a senior but in track he is still able to play one more year so he is going to take that chance. He is a Physical Education and Criminal Justice major. He does mainly sports around campus with a job in helping in IM sports.

Hometown: Frankfort, Indiana

How long have you been throwing for Track and Field?: Since sophomore year of high school

How did you get involved with Track?: My best friend J.T. Williams convinced me to me to try it

What events do you play in Track and Field?: Shot Put, Hammer, and Discus

What is your favorite food?: Chicken

What music do you like to listen to?: Rap and Hip-Hop

What movie can you watch over and over again? He Got Game

What was the first job you ever had?: Landscaping

Did you like it? NO, it was the worst job ever

What is one thing that people don't know about you?: I was an All-American last year

What is your favorite sports team? Dallas Cowboys

Pumas Open Outdoor Season with a Great Performance at Home

By J.J. Miller
Staff Writer

The Pumas Track and Field teams really know how to put on a show. After a very successful indoor track season, the Pumas opened their outdoor campaign with a strong home performance in the freezing cold against Marian College.

Against Marian, the men won thirteen of the seventeen events. Rod Grey and Michael Taylor took first and second in the 100 meter dash, with times of 11.3 and 11.51 seconds. Grey also won the 200 meter dash in 23.09 seconds, with Taylor placing third. Luke McRobbets, Ben Vasquez, and Cole Galloway took the top three spots in the 400 meter dash, with respective times of 51.43, 55.61, and 56.6 seconds.

Jeremiah Wright won the 400 meter hurdles with a time of 59.86. Corey Dowds and Alex Yong swept the 5000 meter run in 18:07 and 18:36, and Rocco Mazzanti and Brian Witt swept the 3000 meter steeplechase in 10:43.88 and 10:57.29. Ryan Allen won the triple jump with a jump of 12.13 meters.

Kaleb Thompson won the shot put at 15.94 meters and hammer throw at 54.9 meters, Sir



The girls keep running, as they know the finish line is closer then it appears.
(Photo courtesy of Father Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

William McKenzie won the discus with a throw of 44.08 meters, and Sean Warren completed the sweep of the throwing events by taking first in the javelin with a throw of 45.42 meters.

The women also won thirteen events on the day, with Erica Blythe winning the 100 meter dash in 13.46. Tennia Ledbetter took first in the 200 meter dash at 27.59, edging out Blythe for the top spot. Kirstin Hart took first in the 5000 meter run with a time of 20:18.8.

Kristina Hemmerling won her first career 400 meter

hurdle in 72.75 seconds. Kelli Lippold won the 3000 meter steeplechase in 12:51.30. The women swept all the field events, with Melissa Buche taking first in the high jump at 1.52 meters, Megan Davis winning the javelin with a throw of 34.1 meters, and Alicia Allen sweeping both the long jump and triple jump with marks of 4.96 and 10.19 meters.

Alexis DeJean swept the shot put, the discus, and the hammer throw. In the shot put, she threw 13.5 meters, her first NCAA Provisional Mark of the season. It was closely followed

by her second one, coming in the hammer throw, which she won with a throw of 53.98 meters. She also won the discus with a throw of 39.8 meters to finish off the day. She was also named the GLVC Field Athlete of the Week for her performance.

The Pumas also competed in the Puma Invite here at Saint Joseph's College on Saturday, April 2nd. The men's team took first overall, while the women's team finished a close second at the end of the day. Look for individual results to come in the next issue of *The Observer*.



Senior Sean Warren leaps to make it over the bar against Marian College.
(Photo courtesy of Father Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

Karma and the Cosmos

By Crystal Gaze



Aries (April 18- May 13)

It seems like you could really be heading places in the near future. Maybe you should look at your options; now is a good time to book a vacation. Travel abroad, but don't forget your suitcase. You can't travel naked.

Taurus (May 13- June 21)

This month seems to be full of research for you. Maybe it's time for you to check out that cute boy or girl in your class; facebook creep a little and figure out what they like. Or you could do that research paper that's due tomorrow. It's up to you, really.

Gemini (June 21- July 20)

Something big is about to happen. When I say big, I mean huge. Someone somewhere did something that is really going to affect you this month, so you might want to take each day one at a time for a while. You never know when that big ball of information is going to drop on your head. Wear a helmet.

Cancer (July 20- Aug. 10)

The past is something that truly shapes who you are, and recently it feels like history has been repeating itself. Just make sure that you play your cards correctly this time. Maybe you'll get all the money back to pay off your loans.

Leo (Aug. 10- Sept. 16)

Reading is where it is at right now. Forget about everything else, just pick up a book and read! That's all that you need to do. Katy Perry thinks it's sexy.

Virgo (Sept. 16- Oct. 30)

Just because you're happy doesn't mean you should rub it in everyone else's face. Some of us still need to get our homework done and haven't had the time. So just stop being so productive and making the rest of us look bad, okay?

Libra (Oct. 30- Nov. 23)

So you need to get something done, and done well? Not a problem for you, Libra. You know all the right people and know

exactly who to call. Pisces owes you a couple of favors, so feel free to cash those in.

Scorpio (Nov. 23- Nov. 29)

Philanthropy is your ultimate goal this month. It is time to give up everything and discover what is truly important in life. Be warned: no one likes a stinky bum on the street, so make sure you still manage to shower.

***Ophiucus (Nov. 29- Dec. 17)**

Don't you worry your little head about that deadline, It might seem like it is running to catch up with you, but this too shall pass. You'll get that project done, and what's more? You'll rock it. So carry on!

Saggitarius (Dec. 17- Jan. 20)

Look at you! You got it done and you're smiling, but you've managed to be less annoying than Virgo. Keep it up! But don't rub it in everyone else's face. Instead, keep quiet and out of the way while everyone else catches up to your productivity.

Capricorn (Jan. 20 – Feb. 16)

You're realizing the importance of family, and it feels warm and fuzzy. Who knew that your family could make you feel so great? Just remember that clean laundry often does the same thing, so you might want to get on that soon.

Aquarius (Feb. 16 – March 11)

Today is the day! You're going to be the nicest person in the world. You're going to be the Good Samaritan and help that stranger on the street. Who knows, maybe you'll get rewarded with something great! Just remember to wash your hands in case you're rewarded with germs.

Pisces (March 11- April 18)

If you're feeling like people aren't making sense anymore, it's because they aren't. Signals are getting crossed, messages are getting misinterpreted, and you're caught in the middle, as usual. Try not to let it get you down. Just remember that you still owe Libra a favor, and they might be coming to collect.

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for February 18
(219) 866-2222

fountainstonetheaters.com

Movies for April 7, 2011

**Diary of a Wimpy Kid:
Rodrick Rules (PG)**

4:25, 6:30

Hop (PG)
4:30, 6:40

Rango (PG)
4:20, 6:25

Source Code (PG 13)
4:35, 6:35

Sucker Punch
4:15, 6:20

**Coming Soon!
Rio (PG)**

The Ritz Cinema

Movies for December 8
(219) 866-0086

All movies begin at 7:00 M-F

Matinees Sat/Sun 2:00

**Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage
of the Dawn Treader**

April 1-7

The King's Speech

April 8-14

Grace Card

April 15-21

Overheard Say What?

**Crystal Gaze has recently updated her horoscopes to include the forgotten "Ophiucus" sign.*

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to emp6839@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

~
Mine looks like a country road, and yours looks like a city's.

~
Child 1: God is dead. He died, but He's coming back.

Child 2: I think that's Michael Jackson.

~
She's just a pitch b... uh... I mean Nazi.

~
Run and declare that, Hayseed!

~
Global warming is as real as Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny.

~
Person 1: They might hold hands and touch! Ewww!

Person 2: I had a friend that happened to. She got pregnant. True story.

~
Fac ut vivas.

What are these crazy characters saying? Create crazy comments for the people in the photographs with your own input, banter, or silly phrases and send your responses to emp6839@saintjoe.edu to see your responses printed in the next issue! Please keep the responses PG-13 and get ready for another photograph in the upcoming issue. Also, be sure to include your name and year in your response.

This week's photograph:



Above photo courtesy of Jeremy Butterfield
Bottom photo courtesy of Eileen Mills-Groninger



DATING DAN: ADVICE FROM A MAN ABOUT TOWN

By Daniel Zimmer

News Editor

I can't seem to communicate with my significant other. We are both talking and listening, or at least trying, so why the heck can't we agree on the same game plan?

Remember that in relationships there are two people. That means there are two people involved, with two different life paths that have luckily brought you two together.

All people are who they are based on experiences

from their past. No two people have the exact same past.

You need to remember that no matter how hard we try to understand and relate we really won't fully understand the whole feelings of the past of our significant other.

This leads to the final thought here: two people will not see any situation in the same way, even if they are in it together. There are two sets of eyes after all.

So maybe you're just not listening the right way. If there is anything in doubt, or you think there needs to be clarification, then don't be afraid to ask them for it.

We might be scared of the truth, but then you know what the truth is and can make your plans from there. There's no need to be afraid because if you both love each other the answer will be the one that you want.

Responses from last week:

"Rupaul ain't got nothin' on me!"

"Cross-dressers UNITE!"

"What do you mean I'm not in San Francisco?!?!"

"Do I get the part, John Rahe?"

"Does this dress bring out my eyes?"

"I'm not a drag queen... I'm just Polish."